

From the Upper Chamber



Senate Information Office ♦ 201 Legislative Office Building ♦ Atlanta, Georgia ♦ 404.656.0028

Report for Tuesday, January 31, 2006

The tenth day of the 2006 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Mark Taylor**.

Senator **Don Thomas** of the 54th stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Senate Bills 370 and 464-470, Senate Resolution 737 and House Bills 895, 999, 1077-1079 and 1087 were read for the first time and assigned to their respective Committees.

Following the reports of Standing Committees and second reading of Senate Bills and Resolutions, the afternoon roll call was taken.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** then recognized Sen. **Nancy Schaefer** of the 50th to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sen. **Schaefer** introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Dr. **J. Robert White**, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

The Secretary then read SR 747, which honors the life and the achievements of **Coretta Scott King**. Mrs. **King** passed away last night at age 78. Without objection, the resolution was adopted.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** then introduced President Pro Tempore **Eric Johnson** of the 1st, who took the rostrum to speak to the resolution.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** then asked the Sergeant-at-Arms to welcome the honorable Governor **Sonny Perdue** to the Senate chamber.

The Secretary read House Resolution 1171, honoring the life and work of **Lonice Barrett**, former Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources and current Director of Implementation for the Office of the Governor.

Gov. **Perdue** took the rostrum to speak to the resolution, and to commend **Lonice Barrett** for his life of public service. The resolution was read and adopted, and Director **Barrett** took the rostrum to thank the Senate for this honor.

Sen. **J.B. Powell** of the 23rd then took the rostrum to introduce the *Doctor of the Day*, Dr. **W. Mark Newton** of Augusta, who greeted the Senate from the rostrum.

Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th took the rostrum to recognize a group of visitors, the Silver-Haired Legislators, in the Senate gallery.

Sen. **John Wiles** of the 37th took the rostrum to recognize members of the Building Owners and Managers Association of Atlanta, seated in the Senate gallery.

Minority Leader **Robert Brown** of the 26th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to express condolences to the **King** family, and to ask the Senate to keep former State Sen. **Rene Kemp** in mind during his battle with illness.

Senators **Emanuel Jones** of the 10th, **Ed Harbison** of the 15th, **Sam Zamarripa** of the 36th, **Valencia Seay** of the 34th, **Vincent Fort** of the 39th, **Horacena Tate** of the 38th, **Steen Miles** of the 43rd, **Kasim Reed** of the 35th, **Ed Tarver** of the 22nd, **Regina Thomas** of the 2nd and **Gloria Butler** of the 55th took the well on Points of Personal Privilege to express condolences to the **King/Scott** family and to speak in memory of the life of **Coretta Scott King**.

Sen. **Miles** moved to withdraw SR 429. Without objection, the resolution was withdrawn.

SR 729-741 were read and adopted.

The Secretary read SB 390, known as the *Classrooms First for Georgia Act*, and its accompanying amendments.

Sen. **Ronnie Chance** of the 16th took the well to present the bill, which would require that local school systems spend 65 percent of operating funds on direct classroom expenditures. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Dan Weber** of the 40th, **Joseph Carter** of the 13th, **Jones** and **Brown**.

Sen. **Fort** took the well to speak to SB 390, stating that it is imperative that media specialists are included in the 65 percent formula. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Zamarripa**, **Dan Moody** of the 56th and **Brown**.

Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd took the well to speak to SB 390 and in support of his Amendments 1 and 2, which changes language in the bill concerning class sizes and classroom expenditures. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Tate**.

Sen. **Steve Henson** of the 41st took the well to speak to SB 390 and in support of his Amendment 3, which would include the salaries of media specialists and school counselors in

the 65 percent formula. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Don Balfour** of the 9th, **Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12th, **Tate** and **Johnny Grant** of the 25th.

Sen. **Zamarripa** took the well to speak in favor of Amendment 3. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Moody**.

Sen. **Thomas** of the 2nd took the well to speak to SB 390, and stated that several education advocacy groups oppose the bill.

Sen. **Powell** took the well to speak against the bill.

Sen. **Henson** took the well to ask for support of Amendment 3.

Sen. **Zamarripa** asked unanimous consent to withdraw Amendment 4. There was no objection. He then took the well to speak in support of Amendment 5, which would put school funding expenditure controls with the State Board of Education.

Sen. **Chance** moved to previous question.

Amendment 1 failed by a vote of 17-32.

Amendment 2 failed by a vote of 17-33.

Amendment 3 failed by a vote of 18-32.

Amendment 4 was withdrawn.

Amendment 5 failed by a vote of 15-34.

SB 390 passed by a vote of 32-18.

After the announcements, Majority Leader **Williams** moved that the Senate stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 1.

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